

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 OMB-01 SY-05 SCCT-01 AF-06 PM-04

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 /082 W

----- 105308

R 181618Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3803

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4697

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PO

SUBJ: AZOREANS BURNS COMMUNIST PARTY HEADQUARTERS IN ANGRA
DO HEROSIMO

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION CINCLANT NORFOLK VA, HQ MAC SCOTT AFB IL/CC,
21AF MCGUIRE AFB NJ/CC, AMEMBASSY LISBON, USDAO LISBON, INFO
HQ USAF WASH DC ACS/I, USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE ECJ2-0, COMNAVSECGRU
WASHDC FROM COMUSFORAZ TERCEIRA 181300Z AUG 75 REPEATED FOR YOUR
ACTION

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L/NOFORN//N03100//

SUBJECT: AZOREANS BURN COMMUNIST PARTY HEADQUARTERS
IN ANGRA DO HEROSIMO (U)

1. (C/NF) THE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP) HEADQUARTERS IN
ANGRA DO HEROSIMO, TERCEIRA ISLAND WAS BURNED ON THE
EVENING OF 17 AUG 75. VARIOUS SOURCES ADVISED THAT
FARMERS MET AT THE DAIRY PROCESSING PLANT ON THE OUTSKIRTS
OF ANGRA EARLY IN THE EVENING TO DEMAND THE PURGING OF
COMMUNISTS IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE DAIRY INDUSTRY.
THE FARMERS PRESENTED TWO LEAFLETS DEMANDING THE IMMEDIATE
EXPULSION OF PCP MEMBERS IN THE DAIRY, AND ON AIR BASE
FOUR AND ON BATTALION SEVENTEEN (NO. 17) FROM THE AZORES.

2. (C/NF) AFTER THE DEMONSTRATION THEY MARCHED IN TO
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ANGRA. DURING THE MARCH THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 3 TO 4

THOUSAND PEOPLE WITH 35 TO 40 TRACTORS, NUMEROUS CARS, AND TRUCKS. BANNERS STATING " OUT WITH COMMUNISTS" AND " WE WILL WIN" WERE SEEN. ALSO ONE FLA SIGN WAS VISABLE. AS THE MARCHERS MOVED TOWARDS THE CITY OTHER GROUPS AND VEHICLES JOINED IN. THE DEMONSTRATORS WENT TO THE LEFT WING SOCIALIST (MES) AND COMMUNIST BACKED MDP/CDE HEADQUARTERS WHERE THEY DESTROYED PAPERS AND EQUIPMENT INSIDE THE BUILDINGS. THEY THEN PROCEEDED TO THE PCP HEADQUARTERS AND DEMANDED THAT THOSE INSIDE LEAVE THE ISLAND. DURING THE DEMONSTRATION THE CHANT " THE PEOPLE ARE WITH FLA" WAS HEARD. DURING THE DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING, SOURCES HERE STATE THAT PCP MEMBERS ON THE SECOND FLOOR THREW OUT MOLOTOV COCKTAILS AT THE CROWD. THE PEOPLE THEN THREW THE BURNING GASOLINE BACK INTO THE BOTTOM FLOOR OF THE BUILDING WHERE IT SOON WAS ENGULFED IN FLAMES. ALSO, THE PCP MEMBERS ALLEGEDLY FIRED SHOTGUNS FROM THE WINDOWS, HITTING TWO OR THREE PEOPLE IN THE ARMS AND LEGS. TEN (10) PCP MEMBERS MOVED TO A PORCH AND THEN BROKE A DOOR TO GAIN ENTRANCE TO THE NEXT BUILDING TO ESCAPE THE FIRE. SOLDIERS FROM BATT NO. 17 ARRIVED AND ATTEMPTED TO CONTROL THE SITUATION. MANY OF THE SOLDIERS STOOD BY AND THERE WAS NO ACTUAL CROWD CONTROL. AIR BASE NO. 4 SOLDIERS ARRIVED WITH FOUR DOGS, BUT THE CROWD STARTED TO REACT VIOLENTLY TO THEIR PRESENCE AND BATT NO. 17 COMMANDER ORDERED THEM TO RETURN TO THE BASE. FIREMAN ARRIVED BUT COULD NOT MOVE IN CLOSE ENOUGH TO FIGHT THE FIRE DUE TO TRACTORS AND DEMONSTRATORS BLOCKING THE WAY. THE CROWD ALLEGEDLY WOULD NOT LET THEM EXTINGUISH THE FIRE, BUT ALLOWED THEM TO KEEP IT FROM SPREADING. THE PCP MEMBERS IN THE BUILDING LEFT THE SCENE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF BATT NO. 17 SOLDIERS BUT NOT UNTIL MOST HAD BEEN STRUCK BY ROCKS AND STICKS AND WERE BLEEDING WHEN THEY ENTERED THE AMBULANCES. SECURITY AT LAJES FIELD INCREASED WITH IDENTIFICATION CARD CHECKS OF ALL PERSONNEL ENTERING THE BASE. THERE HAS BEEN NO THREAT TO U.S. FORCES OR FACILITIES. THE SITUATION APPEARS TO HAVE CALMED DOWN IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE BURNING. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REACTION IS NOT KNOWN AS OF YET.

3. (U) COMUSFORAZ STAFF OFFICER OBSERVED THE INITIAL
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STAGES OF THE DEMONSTRATION BUT DID NOT WITNESS THE RANSACKING OF MDP/CDE AND MES OFFICES OR THE BURNING OF THE PCP HEADQUARTERS BUILDING.

GDS-81

UNQUOTE

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